

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A processor executing a plurality of instructions, comprising:
an arithmetic logic unit; and
a plurality of registers coupled to the ALU, each register programmable to store a register value;
wherein said processor executes a routine having a test and skip instruction defined by an opcode, said instruction that includes an immediate value and a reference to a register, the test and skip instruction performs a comparison using the immediate value and the register value stored in the referenced register, and selectively skips a subsequent instruction that follows the test and skip instruction based on the comparison;
wherein the test and skip instruction includes at least one bit, separate from the opcode, that specifies whether the register reference is to a register from a first group of registers or to a register from a second group of registers, and if a register from the first group of registers is specified by said at least one bit, the comparison is performed by comparing the immediate value to the register value, and, if a register from the second group of registers is specified by said at least one bit, the comparison is performed by masking the register value with the immediate value and examining one or more bits in the masked version of the referenced register; and
wherein the subsequent instruction jumps to another routine.
2. (Canceled).

Appl. No. 10/632,214
Preliminary Amdt. Dated October 26, 2007
Reply to Final Office Action of August 9, 2007

3. (Previously presented) The processor of claim 1 wherein, if comparing the immediate value to the register value, the processor skips the subsequent instruction if the immediate value does not match the register value and executes the subsequent if the immediate value does match the register value.
4. (Canceled).
5. (Currently Amended) The processor of claim 1 wherein, if masking the register value, the masking is performed by ANDing the immediate value with the register value.
6. (Canceled).
7. (Canceled).
8. (Previously presented) The processor of claim 1 wherein the registers include a status register and if the register reference specified by said at least one bit is not the status register, the comparison is performed by comparing the immediate value to the register value in the referenced register, and, if the register reference specified by said at least one bit is the status register, the comparison is performed by masking the register value in the status register with the immediate value and examining one or more bits in the masked version of the status register.
9. (Currently Amended) A method, of executing an instruction defined by an opcode and having a reference to a register, an immediate value, and a control bit that dictates one of at least two tests, the method comprising:
examining said control bit to determine its state;
if said control bit is in a first state, comparing the immediate value to the contents of the register referenced in the instruction and skipping a subsequent instruction based on the outcome of the comparison; or

if said control bit is in a second state, masking the contents of the register with the immediate value, testing one or more bits in the masked version of the contents of the register, and skipping a subsequent instruction based on the outcome of the testing;
wherein said control bit is outside said opcode.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein skipping the subsequent instruction comprises replacing the subsequent instruction with a no operation instruction.

11. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
a main processor unit; and
a co-processor coupled to said main processor unit, wherein said co-processor selectively operates in a stack-based instruction mode and a register-based instruction mode,
wherein, during the register-based instruction mode, the co-processor executes an instruction defined by an opcode and including ~~that includes~~ an immediate value and a reference to a register accessible to said co-processor, performs a comparison using the immediate value and the register value, and executes or skips a subsequent instruction based on the comparison;
and
wherein the instruction includes at least one bit, separate from said opcode, that specifies whether the register reference is to a register from a first group of registers or to a register from a second group of registers, and if a register from the first group of registers is specified by said at least one bit, the comparison is performed by comparing the immediate value to the register value, and, if a register from the second group of registers is specified by said at least one bit, the comparison is performed by masking the register value with the immediate value and examining one or more bits in the masked version of the referenced register.

Appl. No. 10/632,214
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12. (Canceled).
13. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein, if comparing the immediate value to the register value, the co-processor does not execute the subsequent instruction if the immediate value does not match the register value and executes the subsequent if the immediate value does match the register value.
14. (Canceled).
15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein, if masking the register value, the masking is performed by ANDing the immediate value with the register value.
16. (Canceled).
17. (Canceled).
18. (Original) The system of claim 11 further comprising wireless communication circuitry and said system comprises a cell phone.
19. (Currently Amended) A programmable logic device comprising;
control logic;
means for selectively changing an operating mode of the programmable logic device; and
means for decoding a control bit in an instruction that includes an immediate value and a reference to a register, for performing a comparison using the immediate value and a register value stored in the referenced register, and for causing the processor to execute or not execute a subsequent instruction that follows the instruction based on the comparison;

wherein said control bit selectively specifies whether the comparison is to be performed by comparing the immediate value to the register value or whether the comparison is to be performed by masking the register value with the immediate value and examining one or more bits in the masked version of the referenced register; and wherein the subsequent instruction jumps to a routine associated with a particular operating mode;
wherein said control bit is separate from an opcode that defines said instruction.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19 including means for comparing the immediate value to the register value in the referenced register.

21. (Previously presented) The processor of claim 1 wherein, if masking the register value, the processor skips the subsequent instruction if the masked version of the register value comprises all logic high values or all logic low values, and executes the subsequent instruction if the masked version comprises a mix of logic high and low values.

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein, if masking the register value, the processor skips the subsequent instruction if the masked version of the register value comprises all logic high values or all logic low values, and executes the subsequent instruction if the masked version comprises a mix of logic high and low values.